The Caledonian Mercury.

Edinburgh, Monday, July 11, 1726.

From Miſt's Weekly Journal, July 2.

To Mr. Miſt,

SIR,

AS it ſeems to be your conſtant Endeavour not only to tell us Truth your ſelf, but to prevent, if poſſible, our being impoſed upon and miſled by any Miſrepreſentations in other Papers: I hope you will take ſome Notice of a Letter in the *London Journal* of Saturday laſt, relating to the preſent State of our *National Debt.*

As every honeſt Briton muſt reflect with the utmoſt Concern, upon the heavy Burden which we lie under, he would, no doubt, with Readineſs and Pleaſure receive all Accompts which can give him any Hopes of ſeeing it leſſened, and be always inclined to believe on the moſt favourable Side. I'm further perſwaded, that all thoſe who wiſh well to their Country, could as little prevail upon themſelves to repreſent the Debt *greater* than it really is, as to contribute to the Increaſe of it. But on the other hand, I cannot look upon an Endeavour to repreſent the Debt *leſs* than it is, to be done in any good Deſign to the Publick: For what can be the View of this, or what the Effect, but to throw us into a *dangerous Security?* To make us patient and eaſy in contracting of *new* Debts, by giving us a wrong State of the *old*, and falſe Hopes of their being ſoon and eaſily diſcharged. I will not directly fix this Deſign upon the Author of the Letter, ſince probably he might be led into this Miſtake by a Book which he refers to, entituled, *An Eſſay upon the publick Debts,* which I have not read, and am in a Place where I have no Opportunity of getting it now: But if the Quotations from it be true, and the Inferences not unfairly drawn, this Book ſeems to me to be juſtly chargeable with the miſchievous View before mentioned; eſpecially, if the the Author has taken any Care to inform himſelf, ſince the contrary of what he aſſerts is but too well known to be concealed. Every Body who reads the publick Papers cannot but take notice, of the Privilege which ſome Perſons daily take in diſperſing Falſhoods with Impunity; yet I agree with the *Letter Writer,* that whilſt this relates to News only, it is of very little Conſequence: But when 'tis done in Things which ſo nearly concern the Publick as a true State of our Condition with reſpect to our *Debts,* I think it the Duty of every honeſt Briton not to ſuffer them to paſs without Contradiction; and if this ſhould be blamed as *unſeaſonable,* it muſt fall upon thoſe who have made it neceſſary to diſabuſe the Kingdom. For my Part, I think the Subject too melancholly to take any Pleaſure in mentioning it, and could have wiſh'd, that others had had ſo much Regard and Tenderneſs for our preſent Conſtitution as not to have given the Occaſion; for which Reaſon, tho' I was in a Place where I might have fuller Information, yet I would not deſcend to many Particulars, but only inform my Countrymen, by a general Caution how they truſt this Author for the future, when they ſee he is capable of endeavouring to impoſe upon their Credulity ſuch a groſs Falſhood as this, *viz. That the National Debt is not increaſed more than the Sum of Eight hundred forty four Thouſand ſeventy eight Pounds, and two Shillings, ſince the Year* 1717. From what Accounts this Sum is taken, I don't know, but every Body in the Kingdom knows that we have now (to the Sorrow of many poor Families, to the Increaſe of Stock jobbing, and to the great Interruption of Trade) a *LOTTERY* for a Million, for paying off a Debt upon the Civil Liſt, contracted within a very few Years; and tho' the *Army Debt* may be ſaid to have been contracted *before* the 1717, yet if the Reaſonings in this Book be drawn from the Accounts of the National Debt then delivered in to Parliament, it is well known *this Debt* is not in *that* Account, but has been ſtated and provided for *ſince* that Time; for it was then eſtimated to be under *Four hundred thouſand Pounds,* as a worthy Member of the Houſe of Commons tells us in an Abſtract of the publick Debts. By what Means it has been increaſed to the preſent Sum, I cann't pretend to tell, but I know that it is now above *Two Millions one hundred and fifty Thouſand Pounds.* And whether this Debt has been contracted with any *Propriety* or not, I cannot ſay, becauſe I confeſs I do not well underſtand the Meaning of the Word in this Place: But this

this I am ſure of, that let it have been contracted even with never ſo great *Impropriety*, the Nation *muſt pay it.*

I have mentioned theſe few Facts only as they occur to my Memory, and, I believe, they will be ſufficient to ſatisfy my Countrymen of the Veracity and Integrity of this Author, if he is not himſelf deceived by *others*; for I have no Deſign to enter into any Diſpute with him, though he ſhould have Leiſure or Inclination to do it, and by ſome Diſtinctions try to amuſe, or farther impoſe upon the Publick with Excuſes for this falſe Repreſentation. But there is one Thing which I cannot omit to take Notice of, and what, I believe, will excite the utmoſt Horror and Indignation in the Minds of my Countrymen; I mean the *Suppoſition*, or rather *Intimation* of a Deſign to involve theſe Kingdoms in a farther Debt of *twenty five Millions*; for he repreſents it as a Sum which would be ſoon and eaſily diſcharged by the *ſinking Fund*. As this *Suppoſition*, if believed, will tend very much to the Diſcouragement of the Proprietors of the Funds, as well as of every Man in the Nation, who makes any Reflections upon our preſent Circumſtances; I hope ſo *bold* and *pernicious* an Inſinuation will not eſcape the juſt Cenſure it deſerves; and I doubt not that it will be diſavow'd by all Perſons in the Adminiſtration; for, I believe, every Body thinks the great Benefit *propoſed* by, and *expected* from the *ſinking Fund*, is to *eaſe* the Nation, as ſoon as poſſible of the *preſent* Load of Debt, and that it ſhall not be turned to our certain Deſtruction, by making it a Means to *encreaſe* our Burthen; for, in ſuch a Caſe, what can we expect? Have not our annual Expences ſince the Peace of *Utrecht* (including the *Intereſt* upon our *old Debts*, and the *Civil Liſt*) amounted to about *ſix Millions two hundred Thouſand* Pounds, which is more by above *half a Million* than we expended in the laſt great War, *communibus annis*, from the Year 1701 to the Year 1711, if that Matter is ſtated right in the Paper, which I happen to have now by me, called, *A Review of the Taxes, Funds and publick Revenues of* England, which, as I remember, had very good Credit when it was publiſhed.

I ſhould therefore be glad to know, whether it can be thought to be for the Intereſt of theſe Kingdoms, to plunge *farther* into Debt; or that it can be any very laudable Deſign, to prepare us to be eaſy in the doing of it? I do not ſay this, to diſcourage my Countrymen from exerting themſelves upon every juſt and neceſſary Occaſion, in preſerving and ſecuring to us the great Bleſſings we enjoy of our *Religion*, *Liberties* and *Trade*, under the Government of his preſent Majeſty, and his *Proteſtant* Royal Family: But my ſole Aim is, to caution againſt *unneceſſary Expences* and *new Debts*; and I am glad that this Writer has given the Publick ſuch Aſſurances of the ſtrict Application of the *Sinking Fund*, to the Payment of our *old Debts*, to which, no doubt it is appropriated by Parliament, as ſtrongly as Words can do it; and nothing but the inviolable Obſervation of the Laws in this Particular, can give the *Proprietors* of them any Security for the Payment of either *Principal* or *Intereſt*; for which Reaſon it is to be hoped, that if at any Time the leaſt Invaſion ſhould be made in any one Inſtance, the Perſon who is guilty of it, will meet with the ſevereſt Juſtice, and moſt examplary Puniſhment, in order to deter the moſt *daring* Miniſter, who may hereafter ariſe, from laying Hands upon this Sacred Treaſure.

I am, Sir, &c.

From the Whitehall Evening-Poſt, July 2.

Hague, July 5. They write from Petersburg, that a Gentleman is arrived there from Admiral Wager, with a Letter from the King of Great Britain for the Czarina; that the ſaid Admiral is expected there in Perſon to deliver his Maſter's Propoſals by Word of Mouth, and that the Court ſeems well diſpoſed to hear and anſwer them.

Venice, June 22. Laſt Sunday arrived here freſh Letters from Conſtantinople, with Advice that the Envoy of Sultan Eſref, Succeſſor of Meriweys, is returned to Perſia, and that the Porte has given him Hopes, that they will come to an Accommodation. This Miniſter received of the Grand Viſier, a preſent of 10 Purſes of Reals, beſides what was allowed him daily for his Expences all the Time he ſtaid there. Mean while the Porte goes on with ſending to their Armies in Perſia Military Stores of all Sorts. There is no Manner of Account of the young Sophy, ſince he retired into the Mountains with the moſt Loyal of his Subjects.

Amſterdam, July 3. Letters from Oſtend, dated the 30th of laſt Month, confirm the Account we had of the great Conſternation they were under, having already opened ſome of their Sluices to ſet the Land under Water, all the Stir being occaſioned by a Report they have, that a Britiſh Squadron is coming to Bombard that City.

London, July 2. 'Tis ſaid that 6 Men of War more will be put in Commiſſion.

Yeſterday a Committee of Council was ſummoned to meet on particular Affairs.

Wye's

Wye's Letter, verbatim, July 5.

Since our laſt arrived a Mail from France, one from Flanders, and two from Holland.

YEſterday-morning died Edward Pancefort, Eſq; ſom: Time Treaſurer of the Navy, & Yeoman of the Jewel-office. The groſs of his Eſtate goes to his Relations, except ſome large Legacies to charitable Uſes. And laſt Saturday died ſuddenly at Eltham, Charles Henſhaw, Eſq; a Hampſhire Gentleman of a great Eſtate. And we hear from Ireland, that the L. Biſhop of Cloyne, lately mention'd to be ill of a Mortification, is dead.

Yeſterday Mr. Meighan, a R. Catholick Bookſeller, was convicted at the King's-Bench Bar, Weſtminſter, upon Information adhibited by the Attorney General, for publiſhing a Libel entituled, *England's Converſion and Reformation compared*; or, *The young Gentleman directed in the Choice of his Religion.* To which is premiſed, *An Enquiry into the Grounds of the Catholick Faith, &c.* He is to receive Judgment next Term.

On Sunday laſt, the Oratory ſo much talk'd of was opened by Mr. Henley, commonly called *Orator Henley*, in a Room formerly a French Chapel, over Newport-Market Houſe. The Congregation conſiſted of about 200 Printers, Bookſellers, Lawyers, &c. 'twas obſerved, with no little Surprize, that a Liturgy, Litany and Prayers, differing widely from that of our Eſtabliſh'd Church, was publickly read, by a Reader appointed for that Purpoſe. A Pſalm being then ſung, the Orator aſcended the Pulpit, and took his Text from the latter Part of the 15 Verſe of the 52 Pſalm; the Words are: *For that which had not been told them, they ſhall ſee; and that which they had not heard, ſhall they conſider.* We hear there was little or nothing in the Sermon but general Obſervations, on the Uſe he pretended the Deſign would be to Mankind; That 'twas Pity our Youth was not taught either to read or ſpeak a-right; That it was owing to this Sort of Education *Tully* and *Demoſthenes* had ſuch Succeſs; That he hoped to ſee the Engliſh Roſtrum as famous as that of Rome had been; That his Deſign in general was, to take off that Deluſion and Fallacy, which, he had the Aſſurance to ſay, had crept into the Church ſince the primitive Ages; That the Oratory had as much Right to deviat from the Church, as ſhe from the Primitive Church, and ſometimes from herſelf; and that it was the Deſign of the Oratory, to come as near Perfection as may be--- The Collection that Day amounted to no leſs than 20 l. But whether Mr. Henley, tho' he depends on the *Toleration Act*, will be permitted to go on this Way, is much queſtioned; for many are of opinion that Repreſentations will be made 'gainſt it, as being a great Piece of Preſumption, and which may be attended with dangerous Conſequences. Mean time 'tis ſaid, that the Propoſition of a certain Prelate, touching the *Sincerity of a Man's Conſcience*, is among other Things, taken Notice of by the Friends of the Oratory.

We have an Account, by the Ruby Man of War, which arrived Yeſterday at Dover, That on the 21 of May, the Squadron under Admiral Hoſier arrived at Hiſpaniola; and that the ſaid Admiral had ſent for 3 Men of War from Jamaica to join him.

The Men of War from the Nore arrived on Sunday Night laſt at Portſmouth, after 7 Days Paſſage, the Wind not proving favourable. The two Bomb Veſſels are alſo arrived there.

The Counteſs Dowager of Eſſex is dangerouſly ill at Tunbridge: Dr. Friend has been to viſit her.

S. S. Stock 104, 1 8th. York Buildings, 15.

From the Evening Poſt, July 5.

Petersburg, June 15. On the 11th Inſtant in the Night Prince Menzicoff received an Expreſs from Cronſtadt, diſpatched by High Admiral Count Apraxin, with a Letter from the King of Great Britain to our Empreſs. The Engliſh Captain, who brought the ſame to Cronſtadt, was told he might return to the Engliſh Fleet, whither her Imperial Majeſty will ſend her Anſwer by an Expreſs.

Petersburg, June 18. The Men of War, Fregates and Gallies, lying near Cronſlot are ordered to join our Fleet which rides at Anchor near Revel. All the Troops which can be ſpared from the Neighbourhood, are ordered to be ſhipt off. Mean while ſome light Fregates have been ſtationed between Revel and Cronſlot, at ſuch Diſtances from one another, that in few Hours, by Signals agreed upon by the Admiralty, they can give an Account of what they obſerve abroad.

Madrid, June 11. The Duke of Wharton went away from this City the 12th inſt. but ſome ſay he returned the next Day. The publick Talk here is, That the Chevalier de St. George will go to the Court of Vienna. We enjoy as great Tranquillity here, as if Peace was very well ſettled, to the great Admiration of the Politicians.

Mentz, July 2. We hear that a Courier from the Duke de Richlieu, paſſed ſome Days ago thro' Stras-

Strasburg, with Propoſals offered by the Imperial Court to that of France.

Hamburg, July 5. Letters from Petersburg ſay, that the Czarina declared to the Envoy of Pruſſia, that ſhe will not concern herſelf with the Religious Grievances in Poland, neither directly nor indirectly.

Vienna, June 21. We no longer depend upon the Acceſſion of the Courts of Ruſſia and Sweden to the Vienna Treaty, but we expect to ſee e're long, a Reconciliation betwixt the Courts of Spain and France.

Edinburgh, July 11. On Friday Night laſt, his Grace the D. of Argile came to Town from London.

Yeſternight two Soldiers of Delorain's Regiment were committed for robbing one Mr. Ogilvie a Miniſter betwixt Leith and Edinburgh.

This Day the ROYAL COMPANY OF ARCHERS march in ſolemn Parade to the Links of Leith, to ſhoot for the City's Silver Arrow.

We hear that Tomorrow his Excellency General Wade, will review at Muſſelburgh the Regiments of Royal Scots Fuziliers and Delorain; and this Week the former march into Canongate, as does the latter for Berwick.

Private Letters ſay, that a Pardon is paſſing the Seals for the late Marquis of Seaforth.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

¶¶¶ *That, according to Adjournment, the Lands and Baronies of* LOUNAN, ETHIE *and* NORTHTARRIE, at Twenty one Years Purchaſe, and reckoning the Victual over-head at Five Pounds Scots the Boll: *are to be expoſed to Roup and Sale* upon FRIDAY the Fifteenth Day of July inſt. *at three of the Clock in the Afternoon, in the Houſe of Alexander Stuart Vintner in Edinburgh, either ſeparately or altogether, as ſhall be determined at the Time of the Sale; and whereof the free Rent is as follows, viz. Of the Lands and Barony of* Lounan, 3 *Firlots, one Peck Wheat*; 77 *Bolls* 1 *Firlot,* 2 *Pecks Bear*; 172 *Bolls Meal*; 633 *L.* 6 *ſh.* 8 *d. Scots of Money-Rent*; 24 *Capons*; *beſide* 156 *Poultry, not valued in the Rental. Of the Lands and Barony of* Ethie, 3 *Bolls Wheat,* 86 *Bolls Bear,* 119 *Bolls,* 2 *Firlots Meal,* 519 *L.* 13 *ſh.* 4 *d. Scots of Money Rent,* 9 *Wedders,* 21 *Capons,* 78 *Elns of Linen Cloath, beſides* 99 *Poultry, not valued in the Rental. And of the Lands and Barony of* Northtarrie, 172 *Bolls,* 1 *Peck,* 2 *Lippies Bear,* 69 *Bolls,* 2 *Firlots Meal*; 262 *L.* 5 *ſh. Scots of Money-rent,* 16 *Capons,* 6 *Elns of Linen-cloth, beſide* 15 *Poultrey, not valued in the Rental. All the ſaids Lands, holding Blanch of the Crown, and lying upon the Seacoaſt, near and about the Burgh of Aberbrothock; and the particular Rentals, Conditions of Sale, and Progreſs of the Writs, are to be ſeen in the Hands of William Mercer Writer in Edinburgh.*

¶¶¶ That the Roums called THE TOWN OF DALHOUSIE, belonging to the Rt. Honourable William Earl of Dalhouſie, preſently poſſeſs'd by William Wotherſpoon, John Thomſon younger, David Murray elder, David Murray younger, Baillie Mitchel, John Thomſon elder, William and Patrick Whitlaws; lying in the Pariſh of Cockpen and Sheriffdom of Edinburgh, being of yearly Rent, 368 Bolls Vict. and L. 233, 14, 7 Scots of Money: Are to be expoſed to Sale by voluntar Roup, in the Houſe of Arthur Reid Vintner in Edinburgh, upon the NINTH Day of Auguſt next 1726, at 3 a-clock in the Afternoon. The Progreſs and Rental are to be ſeen in the Hands of Alexander Glaſs Writer to the Signet, at his Writing-chamber oppoſite to the Tolbooth, Edinburgh.

Fiſhery-Office, June 28, 1726.

The Managers of the Copartnery are to expoſe to publick Sale, at their Office on TUESDAY the 19th July inſt. at 3 after Noon, at the following low Rates, for Encouragement of Bidders, viz.

Four new Herring-nets, at 3 L. ſterl. each.

Eight ditto, containing 110 undreſs'd ditto, at 10 ſh. each.

Utenſils for a Twine-work per Inventary, to be ſet up at L 9, 17, 8 ſterl.

Ditto for the Cod-fiſhing, as per Inventary; to be ſet up at L. 14, 1, 8.

Ditto for a Barking-houſe, per ditto to be ſet up at L. 14, 16, 4 ſterl.

The above Goods will be ſhown at Leith by David Daes the Copartnery's Agent, and the Inventaries and Articles of Roup, at their Office in the Lawn-market. Alſo there will be expoſed to public Sale at the ſaid Office, and at the ſame Hour, 88 Laſts, 1 3d of Herring Barrels lying at Peterhead, in one Lot, to be ſold as they lie, at 10 ſh. per Laſt.

Notice is alſo hereby given, That the Managers of the Fiſhing Copartnery have adjourned till TUESDAY the 19th inſtant, at three a clock in the Afternoon, at their Office in the Lawn-Market in Edinburgh, the Sale of the Lands and Fiſhertoun of Peterhead with the Pertinents, and others belonging to the ſaid Copartnery, lying in the Pariſh of Peterhead and Shire of Aberdeen, the yearly Rental whereof, amounts to 191 Bolls 2 Pecks of Bear, 199 Bolls and 2 Pecks 1 3d Meal, 2 Bolls of Oats, and L. 80. 4. 1, 1 6th Sterling of Money Rent and Feu Duties, being the neat free Rent, over and above the Miniſters Stipend. Item the Feus of 37 Houſes in Stonehaven, and Fiſh Boats in the ſaid Town, belonging to the ſaid Copartnery, lying in the Sheriffdom of Kincardin, the Free Rent whereof, amounts in all to L. 7. 12. 1 6th Sterling. Any Perſon who intends to bid for the above Purchaſe, may ſee the Particulars of the Rental, the Copartnery's Right, and the Conditions of Sale, at the Copartnery's Office.

The ſaid Managers do likewiſe further give Notice, That all Perſons who have Certificates, made out in their own Names, or who have Right to the ſame by Indorſation, may have their firſt Dividend of Fiſhery-Stock, at the Rate of 5 ſh. ſterl. per Pound, paid them at the Burrow-room, on Friday the 8th, Monday the 11th, and Friday the 15th from 9 to 12 a-clock in the Forenoon, and from 2 till 5 Afternoon; and that on Wedneſday the 13th July inſt. at the ſame Place and Hours, Certificates will be given out to ſuch Perſons as have Concern in the ſaid Copartnery, who have hitherto omitted to call for them.

EDINBURGH: Printed for Mr. *William Rolland*, by Mr. *Thomas Ruddiman* Sold at the Printing-houſe in Moroe's Cloſs in the Lawn-market; where Advertiſements and Subſcriptions are taken in, as alſo at the Shop of Mr. Alexander Symmer, Bookſeller in the Parliament-Cloſs.